

I claim:

1. A containment vessel of a nuclear power plant, comprising:

an interior space;

a condensing chamber disposed in said interior space;

a pressure chamber disposed in said interior space, said pressure chamber having a top region;

a condenser communicating with said pressure chamber through a flow path; and

a drain pipe for noncondensable gases, said drain pipe disposed in said interior space and fluidically connecting said top region of said pressure chamber to said condensing chamber.

2. A containment vessel of a nuclear power plant, comprising:

an interior space;

a condensing chamber disposed in said interior space;

a pressure chamber disposed in said interior space;

a condenser disposed in said pressure chamber and defining a region around said condenser; and

a drain pipe for noncondensable gases, said drain pipe fluidically connecting said region around said condenser to said condensing chamber, and said drain pipe having a top end disposed above said condenser.

3. The containment vessel according to claim 1, wherein said drain pipe forms a permanently open flow path.

4. The containment vessel according to claim 2, wherein said drain pipe forms a permanently open flow path.

5. The containment vessel according to claim 1, wherein said drain pipe has a bottom end, and said condensing chamber contains a cooling liquid in which said bottom end of said drain pipe is immersed.

6. The containment vessel according to claim 2, wherein said drain pipe has a bottom end, and said condensing chamber contains a cooling liquid in which said bottom end of said drain pipe is immersed.

7. The containment vessel according to claim 5, including a condensing pipe leading into said condensing chamber and ending below said bottom end of said drain pipe.

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8. The containment vessel according to claim 6, including a condensing pipe leading into said condensing chamber and ending below said bottom end of said drain pipe.

9. The containment vessel according to claim 1, including an external cooling basin, said condenser fluidically communicating with said external cooling basin.

10. The containment vessel according to claim 2, including an external cooling basin, said condenser fluidically communicating with said external cooling basin.

11. A method of operating a condenser in a nuclear power plant, which comprises:

providing a condenser in a nuclear power plant, defining a region above the condenser; and

automatically drawing off noncondensable gases from the region above the condenser.

12. The method according to claim 11, which further comprises directing the noncondensable gases into a condensing chamber.

13. The method according to claim 11, which further comprises directing the noncondensable gases into a cooling liquid located in a condensing chamber.

14. The method according to claim 11, which further comprises directing the noncondensable gases above an outlet orifice of a condensing pipe into a cooling liquid located in a condensing chamber.